

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 5 October 2004

TIME: 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee I: Present: Victoria Almeida (Vice Chair), Edward F. Almon, Robert L. Bernstein, Marvin Greenberg, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair)

Not Present: John Keimig, Robert S.L. Kinder, MD, Robert Ricci, Robert Whiteside, John Young, William B. Zuccarelli

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph Miller

Public: (see attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Conflict of Interest Forms

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. Staff noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of the Miriam Hospital for a Certificate of Need to Construct Three Floors to House Medical/Surgical Nursing Units, Upgrade the Emergency Department, and Consolidate and Upgrade Diagnostic and Patient Treatment Areas. Staff noted that a cost impact statement was received from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and that the estimated impact in the year 2010 on the premium rates would be 0.16% or \$0.56 per month. Staff stated that at the previous Committee meeting, the Committee conducted a site visit to the Miriam Hospital. Staff stated that the Committee had sent questions to the applicant and requested that the applicant review its responses.

Ms. Coletta addressed the Committee and noted the following:

- o The applicant provided information regarding the parking study.**
- o There is sufficient parking and traffic's impact would be manageable during construction.**
- o Additional beds are a significant component of the project's cost.**
- o The hospital established a permanent committee board and is looking to hire a community relations liaison to address public concerns.**
- o The committee includes two members from the community.**
- o The hospital holds quarterly meetings to provide updates and there**

will be an exterior design forum on 21 October 2004.

- o The emergency department's ("ED") capacity would be 42,000 visits annually and when the Rhode Island Hospital's new ED opens there will be a slight leveling off in the number of visits to the Miriam Hospital.**

- o The projected number of visits will stay flat during the period of construction and will increase after the construction is completed.**

- o The hospital would not be able to support a bigger ED at 247-bed capacity.**

- o There are benefits of private rooms versus semi-private rooms.**

- o There are different reasons that other departments are being affected by this application: some are located in the buildings that are being demolished, others need to be relocated for better access, and some centralized functions will be moved to individual departments.**

Mr. Colleta addressed the hospital's financial viability and discussed the hospital's CON projects since 2000. She stated that the hospital has been profitable since 1999.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor and none opposed (5-0) to recommend that the application be approved to go before the next Health Services Council meeting. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Bernstein, Greenberg, Quigley.

Staff noted that this application would be scheduled for the Health

Services Council meeting of 26 October 2004.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova